



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/602,626

06/25/2003

Flora P. Goldthwaite

MFCP.101281

8980

45809

7590

11/13/2006

SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P.
(c/o MICROSOFT CORPORATION)
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT
2555 GRAND BOULEVARD
KANSAS CITY, MO 64108-2613

EXAMINER

ABEDIN, SHANTO

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2136

DATE MAILED: 11/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/602,626

Applicant(s)

GOLDTHWAITE ET AL.

Examiner

Shanto M Z Abedin

Art Unit

2136

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 2136

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the communication filed on 06/25/2003.
2. Claim 1-31 are currently presented for the examination.
3. Claim 1-31 have been rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claim 16-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

In particularly, independent claim 16, recites limitations "allowing the system user to alter any one of the identity components without altering the reference; and providing the system user with tools for regulating access to the identity components such that selected known identities have access to selected identity components." However, above mentioned features/ steps of the claimed invention were not expressly explained in the specifications, or not at least, included in the any of the submitted drawings. Claim 17-25 are rejected because of their dependency on claim 16.

Note: As best understood, the claim 16-25 are further examined upon their merits as below.

Drawings

5. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the features/ steps "allowing the system user to alter any one of the identity components without altering the reference; and providing the system user with tools for regulating access to the identity components such that selected known identities have access

Art Unit: 2136

to selected identity components” must be shown, or otherwise these feature(s) should be canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claim 1-6, 8, 10-19, 21-27, and 29-31 are rejected under 35 USC 102 (e) as being anticipated by Allen et al (Pub US 2002/0149705 A1).

Art Unit: 2136

Regarding claim 1, Allen et al teaches a method for providing electronic communications management capability for managing a unique identity owned by an identity owner, wherein the unique identity is accessible through an associated reference, the method comprising:

providing identity access tools for allowing the identity owner to select a set of authorized identities that have rights to communicate with the identity owner (Fig 5; Par [0063]-[0066], Par [0091]-[0092]; claim 10; communication selection component; contact entry component; contacts; identifier); and

providing device selection tools for allowing the identity owner to select at least one electronic device for reception of communications (Fig 5; Par [0026], [0066], Par [0091]-[0093]; contact containing communication device information/ address; selecting/ entering contacts and associated device addresses).

Regarding claim 16, Allen et al teaches a method for facilitating electronic communications management by a system user, the method comprising:

permitting access to a unique identity belonging to the system user through a unique reference (Par [0065; caller ID/ telephone number associated with the contacts), wherein the unique identity comprises a plurality of components (Par [0026], [0095]-[0096]; identifier);

allowing the system user to alter any one of the identity components without altering the reference (Par [0065], [0092], [0095], [0100]; user changing visual/ audio identifiers/ contacts without making any change to caller ID or the phone numbers associated with the identifier/ contacts) and

providing the system user with tools for regulating access to the identity components such that selected known identities have access to selected identity components ([0092], [0095], [0100]; user selecting desired contacts/ identifiers).

Art Unit: 2136

Regarding claim 26, Allen et al teaches a system for allowing a user having a unique identity to manage communications, wherein the unique identity is associated with a plurality of electronic devices, the system comprising:

a service for assigning a reference to a user's unique identity, wherein other identities can access the user's unique identity only by using the reference (Par [0065; caller ID/ telephone number associated with the contacts);

permission controls for allowing the user to control access to the unique identity by restricting authorization to a selected set of other identities (Par [0092]-[0094]; user selecting/ controlling desirable communication devices/ addresses, and methods as a part of the creating contacts or identifiers); and

preference controls for allowing the user to select at least one associated device from a plurality of associated devices for receiving communication upon an access attempt by an authorized user (Par [0092]-[0094]; user selecting/ controlling desirable communication devices/ addresses, and methods as a part of the creating contacts or identifiers).

Regarding claim 2, it is rejected applying as above rejecting claim 1, furthermore, Allen et al teaches the method further comprising maintaining a look-up table for locating unique references at the request of a system user (Par [0065; caller ID; telephone number).

Regarding claim 3, it is rejected applying as above rejecting claim 1, furthermore, Allen et al teaches the method further comprising providing preference controls for allowing an identity owner to select default methods for receiving communications (Fig 5; Par [0026], [0066], Par [0091]-[0093];

Art Unit: 2136

contact containing communication device information/ address; selecting contacts and associated device addresses).

Regarding claim 4, it is rejected applying as above rejecting claim 1, furthermore, Allen et al teaches the method further comprising allowing the identity owner to select a communication delivery method for a selected group of individuals (Par [0063], [0092]-[0094], [0104],[0114]; plurality of types of reception devices associated with the plurality of the communication methods).

Regarding claim 5, it is rejected applying as above rejecting claim 4, furthermore, Allen et al teaches the method wherein the method comprises allowing the identity owner to select a live communication delivery method (Par [0022], [0093]-[0094], [0104]; interactive television/ videoconferencing; address associated with the interactive television/ videoconferencing system).

Regarding claim 6, it is rejected applying as above rejecting claim 4, furthermore, Allen et al teaches the method wherein the method comprises allowing the identity owner to select a message communication delivery method (Par [0063], [0092]-[0094], [0104], [0020]; plurality of types of reception devices/ addresses associated with the plurality of the communication methods/ systems such as e-mail, text messaging, or interactive television/ videoconferencing).

Regarding claim 8, it is rejected applying as above rejecting claim 4, furthermore, Allen et al teaches the method wherein the method comprises allowing selection of a live communication delivery method for a first group of contacts and a message communication delivery method for a second group of contacts (Par [0063], [0092]-[0094]; plurality of types of reception devices/ addresses associated

Art Unit: 2136

with the plurality of the communication methods/ systems such as e-mail, text messaging, or interactive television/ videoconferencing).

Regarding claim 10, it is rejected applying as above rejecting claim 1 and 2, furthermore, Allen et al teaches the method further comprising providing the identity owner with a pointer as the associated reference (Par [0065; caller ID associated with the contacts).

Regarding claim 11, it is rejected applying as above rejecting claim 1 and 10, furthermore, Allen et al teaches the method further comprising using the pointer to reference a plurality of electronic devices accessible to the identity owner (Par [0065; caller ID associated with the contacts; Par [0091]-[0093]; contact containing communication device information/ address) .

Regarding claim 12, it is rejected applying as above rejecting claim 1, furthermore, Allen et al teaches the method further comprising allowing transmission of communication in a first mode and delivery of the communication in a second mode (Par [0063], [0092]-[0094]; plurality of types of reception devices/ addresses associated with the plurality of the communication methods/ systems such as e-mail, text messaging, or interactive television/ videoconferencing).

Regarding claim 13, it is rejected applying as above rejecting claim 1 and 12, furthermore, Allen et al teaches the method further comprising translating the communication from the first mode to the second mode (Par [0094]; device configured to convert/ reproduce the messages).

Art Unit: 2136

Regarding claim 14, it is rejected applying as above rejecting claim 12, furthermore, Allen et al teaches the method wherein the first mode and the second mode comprise one of voice communications, text communications, and video communications modes (Par [0063], [0092]-[0094]; plurality of types of reception devices/ addresses associated with the plurality of the communication methods/ systems such as e-mail, text messaging, or interactive television/ videoconferencing).

Regarding claim 15, it is rejected applying as above rejecting claim 1, furthermore, Allen et al teaches a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 1 (Par [0063]-[0066], Par [0091]-[0094]; configured).

Regarding claim 17-19, 21-23 and 25, they recite the limitations of claim 1, 4, 11-12 and 15-16, therefore, they are rejected applying as above rejecting claim 1, 4, 11-12 and 15-16.

Regarding claim 24, it recites the limitations of claim 14 and 16, therefore, it is rejected applying as above rejecting claim 14 and 16.

Regarding claim 27 and 29-31, they recite the limitations of claim 2,11,13, 24 and 26, therefore, they are rejected applying as above rejected claim 2,11,13, 24 and 26.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2136

7. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Allen et al (Pub US 2002/0149705 A1) in view of Boman et al (US 6895257 B2).

Regarding claim 7, it is rejected applying as above rejecting claim 4, Allen et al fails to teach expressly allowing a message sender to control a sent message until a receiver processes the message, such that a sender may delete a sent message prior to processing.

However, Boman et al discloses allowing a message sender to control a sent message until a receiver processes the message, such that a sender may delete a sent message prior to processing (abstract; editing before sending/ processing email).

Boman et al and Allen et al are analogous art because they are from the same field of personalized communication control devices. At the time of invention, it will be obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Boman et al with Allen et al to design the method further comprising the step of allowing a message sender to control a sent message until a receiver processes the message, such that a sender may delete a sent message prior to processing in order to provide user with the editing facilities such as error correcting or updating or deleting before the message is actually sent (Boman et al, abstract).

8. Claim 9, 20 and 28 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Allen et al (Pub US 2002/0149705 A1) in view of Cannon et al (US 6766002 B1).

Regarding claim 9, it is rejected applying as above rejecting claim 1, Allen et al fails to teach the method further comprising allowing the identity owner to block communication delivery from a third group of individuals.

However, Cannon et al discloses allowing the identity owner to block communication delivery from a third group of individuals (abstract; caller ID; call blocking).

Art Unit: 2136

Cannon et al and Allen et al are analogous art because they are from the same field of communication control devices. At the time of invention, it will be obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Cannon et al with Allen et al to design the method further comprising the step of allowing the identity owner to block communication delivery from a third group of individuals in order to prevent receiving calls from unauthorized or unwanted senders (Cannon et al , abstract).

Regarding claim 20, it recites the limitations of claim 4-6, 9 and 16, therefore, it is rejected applying as above rejecting claim 4-6, 9 and 16.

Regarding claim 28, it recites the limitations of claim 9, 24 and 26, therefore, it is rejected applying as above rejecting claim 9, 24 and 26.

Conclusion

9. A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire in 3 (Three) months and 0 (Zero) days from the mailing date of this letter. Failure to respond within the period for response will result in ABANDONMENT of the application (see 35 U.S.C 133, M.P.E.P 710.02(b)).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shanto M Z Abedin whose telephone number is 571-272-3551. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Moazzami Nasser, can be reached on 571-272-4195. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained


Art Unit: 2136

from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Shanto M Z Abedin

Examiner, AU 2136

NASSER MOAZZAMI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100


11/07/06